

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 05701 140948Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 060078

R 140730Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2442

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BREMEN BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5701

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJ: CURRENT GDR LINE ON THE SPD AND CDU/CSU

1. IN ITS REPORTING ON THE CURRENT FRG ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, THE GDR MEDIA IS PRESSING ITS ATTACK ON THE CDU/CSU LEADERSHIP WHILE IN GENERAL IS GOING EASY ON THE SPD. STATEMENTS BY SPD LEADERS IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUED NORMALIZATION OF FRG/GDR RELATIONS RECEIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE. THE SED PARTY ORGAN, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND), FOR EXAMPLE, HAS COVERED RECENT REMARKS BY FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN FAVOR OF A CONTINUATION OF SPD POLICIES SUPPORTING DETENTE MADE DURING A BUNDESTAG DEBATE APRIL 8 AND AT AN APRIL 10 SPD FOREIGN POLICY CONFERENCE IN BONN. THE SAME ARTICLE THAT REPORTS ON SCHMIDT'S APRIL 10 STATEMENT ALSO GIVES A REMARKABLY MILD ACCOUNT OF HIS REFERENCES TO THE FRG'S STRONG NATO TIES AND THE NEED FOR A GREATER ROLE FOR THE WEST GERMAN BUNDESWEHR.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05701 140948Z

2. IN THE SAME APRIL 12 EDITION OF ND, A SIGNED EDITORIAL TITLED "FIGHTING AGAINST WINDMILLS" ATTACKS CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL FOR HIS "VERBAL AGGRESSION" AGAINST THE GDR AT GELSENKIRCHEN. REFERRING TO KOHL'S "GROWING ANTI-GDR CONCEPT", THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT "THE OLD WALL-BARBED WIRE SALAD" REMINISCENT OF THE COLD WAR WILL NOT HELP KOHL'S CAMPAIGN, FOR ON THE BASIS OF THE FRG/GDR BASIC TREATY NEGOTIATED BY THE PRESENT SPD GOVERNMENT, MILLIONS OF FRG CITIZENS CAN NOW FORM THEIR OWN IMAGE OF THE GDR THROUGH VISITS. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT THE GDR'S POLICY IS TO FURTHER NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR IN LINE WITH THE BASIC TREATY AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND NOTES THAT THE CDU DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INTERESTED IN SUCH NORMALIZATIHC.

3. COMMENT: THE GDR STILL HAS AN AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPD. MANY PARTY FUNCTIONARIES WHO FELT THREATENED BY THEN SPD CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S POPULARITY AMONG THE EAST GERMAN CITIZENRY DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF OSTPOLITIK, HAVE LONG RESENTED THE "BRAND(T)SCHUETZ-WOCHE LITERALLY "FIRE PREVENTION WEEK" FIGURATIVELY "PROTECT BRANDT" CONCEPT OF GDR REPORTING ON THE FRG WHICH PRESCRIBES TREADING LIGHTLY WITH CRITICISM OF THE SPD. HOWEVER, THE GDR APPEARS INTERESTED ENOUGH IN THE MONETARY BENEFITS THAT HAVE RESULTED IN IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE PRESENT BONN GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE MAKING A SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SPD AND THE CDU/CSU IN ITS FRG MEDIA COVERAGE. IT APPARENTLY ALSO BELIEVES THAT A CDU/CSU VICTORY IN THE FRG FEDERAL ELECTIONS WOULD FORESHADOW A DIFFICULT PERIOD IN GDR/FRG RELATIONS.COOPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN05701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760141-0316
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760464/aaaaccip.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT GDR LINE ON THE SPD AND CDU/CSU
TAGS: PFOR, GC, GE, SPD, CDU/CSU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006